

Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeff DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeff DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: September 15, 2014

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Animal Sirens Amendment Act of 2014

REFERENCE: Bill 20-494, Draft Committee Print as Shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on August 27, 2014

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Current District regulations allow emergency vehicles to be exempt from certain traffic laws¹ when three conditions are met:

1. When responding to an emergency call;
2. When in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; and
3. When responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire alarm.

In order to qualify for the exemption, a vehicle must sound a siren or alarm and be properly equipped.²

The bill authorizes the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles to designate a vehicle of the Animal Care and Control Agency as emergency vehicle if it is used for responding to animal related emergency.³ The Washington Humane Society (“Humane Society”) operates the District’s Animal

¹ Exemptions for Authorized Vehicles (18 DCMR § 2002.2).

² As defined in Audible Signals and Visual Signals (18 DCMR § 712).

³ Animal related emergencies are defined in the bill as an urgent situation as determined by the Metropolitan Police Department or the Animal Care and Control Agency where an animal is dangerous or a dead or injured animal is obstructing public space.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 20-494, "Animal Sirens Amendment Act of 2014," Draft committee print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on August 27, 2014

Control Facility.⁴ Designation of the vehicles as emergency vehicles would provide them the exemptions from certain traffic laws that are afforded to other emergency vehicles.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

The Humane Society has eight vehicles and approximately twelve individuals that respond to animal related emergencies. In order for those vehicles to be designated as emergency vehicles, they must be retrofitted to meet the District's required specifications and their operators must be properly trained. The Humane Society will absorb the approximately \$16,000 in total vehicle retrofit costs. Additionally, the Metropolitan Police Department's emergency vehicle operator training team has agreed to provide the necessary driver training and can absorb any related costs.

⁴ www.washhumane.org.